IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace pending claims 1, 11 and 16 with amended claims 1, 11 and 16 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A system for maintaining a background model of an image sequence having a plurality of pixels, comprising:

a pixel processing module that processes the image sequence on a pixel scale;

a prediction module that provides predictions for a value of each of the plurality of pixels; and

at least one refinement module that processes the image sequence on a spatial scale other than the pixel scale.

11. (Once Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules, comprising:

a pixel processing module that processes [the] an image sequence on a pixel scale and further comprising:

a prediction module that calculates predictions for a value of each pixel within the image sequence; and

at least one refinement module that processes the image sequence on a spatial scale other than the pixel scale.

16. (Once Amended) A method for maintaining a background model of an image sequence having a plurality of pixels, comprising:

processing the image sequence on a pixel scale so as to determine a current background model and provide an initial assignment for each of the plurality of pixels;

calculating predictors for a value of each of the plurality of pixels; and

refining the pixel processing by processing on a spatial scale other that the pixel scale to further refine at least one of: (a) the current background model; (b) the initial pixel assignments.